



Research priority setting as a tool for justice and fairness in climate and health knowledge ecosystem – November 2024

FACTS:

- More than 3.6 billion people currently live in areas affected by climate change.
- The direct costs of climate change on health are estimated to be up to US\$4 billion per year by 2030.
- Scientists worldwide are working urgently to understand how climate change affects health and to identify effective solutions. It is crucial to prioritise research that will be the most relevant and impactful.

PROJECT CYCLE:

2024 – 2025

PARTNERS:

The George Institute for Global Health

SUPPORTERS:

World Health Organization

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:

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BACKGROUND:

- Research priority setting (RPS) is a collective activity which helps ensure that resources go towards research on the most pressing and relevant issues. These exercises guide us in deciding what research should be prioritised, so we focus on the areas that matter most.
- As currently designed, RPS does not address broader issues of justice and fairness. This is particularly concerning in the climate and health knowledge ecosystem, where knowledge gaps and inequalities can have serious consequences.

AIM:

- To develop a conceptual framework to help make RPS exercises fairer and more justice-focussed, particularly in the climate and health knowledge ecosystem.

METHODS:

- We will use a range of methods, including qualitative research, evidence synthesis, and Indigenous methodologies.
- Our approach will combine methods from different knowledge systems, using interim results from each method to inform and strengthen the next steps. This allows the methods to complement and support one another, providing a more well-rounded understanding of concepts and relationships between them.

IMPACT

The framework developed by the project will bring a paradigm shift in how RPS are conceptualised and conducted in the future.

- It will enable using RPS as a tool to:
 - dismantle structural barriers and address various types of injustice within the knowledge ecosystem;
 - disincentivise unfair knowledge practices.
 - integrate Indigenous knowledge on nature, health, and their connections; and
 - promote climate justice.

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